MARVEL COMICS
2099
SPIDER-MAN
JULY '96 45
SPIDER-MAN 2099
THE CITY SHALL DROWN IN BLOOD!
LEONARDI HANNA
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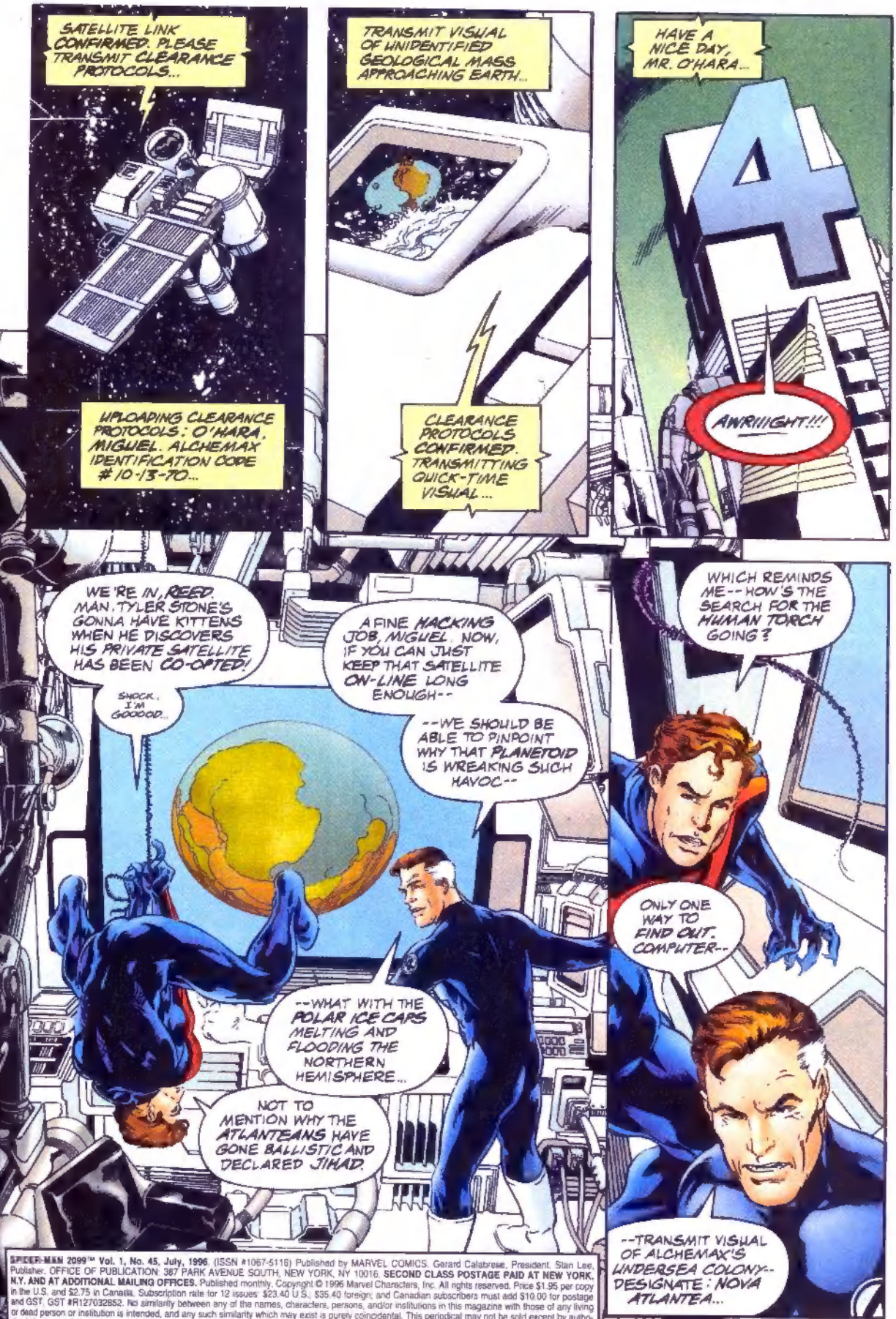

SATELLITE LINK CONFIRMED. PLEASE TRANSMIT CLEARANCE PROTOCOLS...
UPLOADING CLEARANCE PROTOCOLS: O'HARA, MIGUEL. ALCHEMAX IDENTIFICATION CODE #10-13-70...
TRANSMIT VISUAL OF UNIDENTIFIED GEOLOGICAL MASS APPROACHING EARTH...
CLEARANCE PROTOCOLS CONFIRMED. TRANSMITTING QUICK-TIME VISUAL...
HAVE A NICE DAY, MR. O'HARA...
AWRIIIGHT!!!
WE'RE IN, REED. MAN, TYLER STONE'S GONNA HAVE KITTENS WHEN HE DISCOVERS HIS PRIVATE SATELLITE HAS BEEN CO-OPTED!
SHOCK. I'M GOOOOD...
A FINE HACKING JOB, MIGUEL. NOW, IF YOU CAN JUST KEEP THAT SATELLITE ON-LINE LONG ENOUGH--
--WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PINPOINT WHY THAT PLANETOID IS WREAKING SUCH HAVOC--
--WHAT WITH THE POLAR ICE CAPS MELTING AND FLOODING THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE...
NOT TO MENTION WHY THE ATLANTEANS HAVE GONE BALLISTIC AND DECLARED JIHAD.
WHICH REMINDS ME--HOW'S THE SEARCH FOR THE HUMAN TORCH GOING?
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT. COMPUTER--
--TRANSMIT VISUAL OF ALCHEMAX'S UNDERSEA COLONY--DESIGNATE: NOVA ATLANTEA...

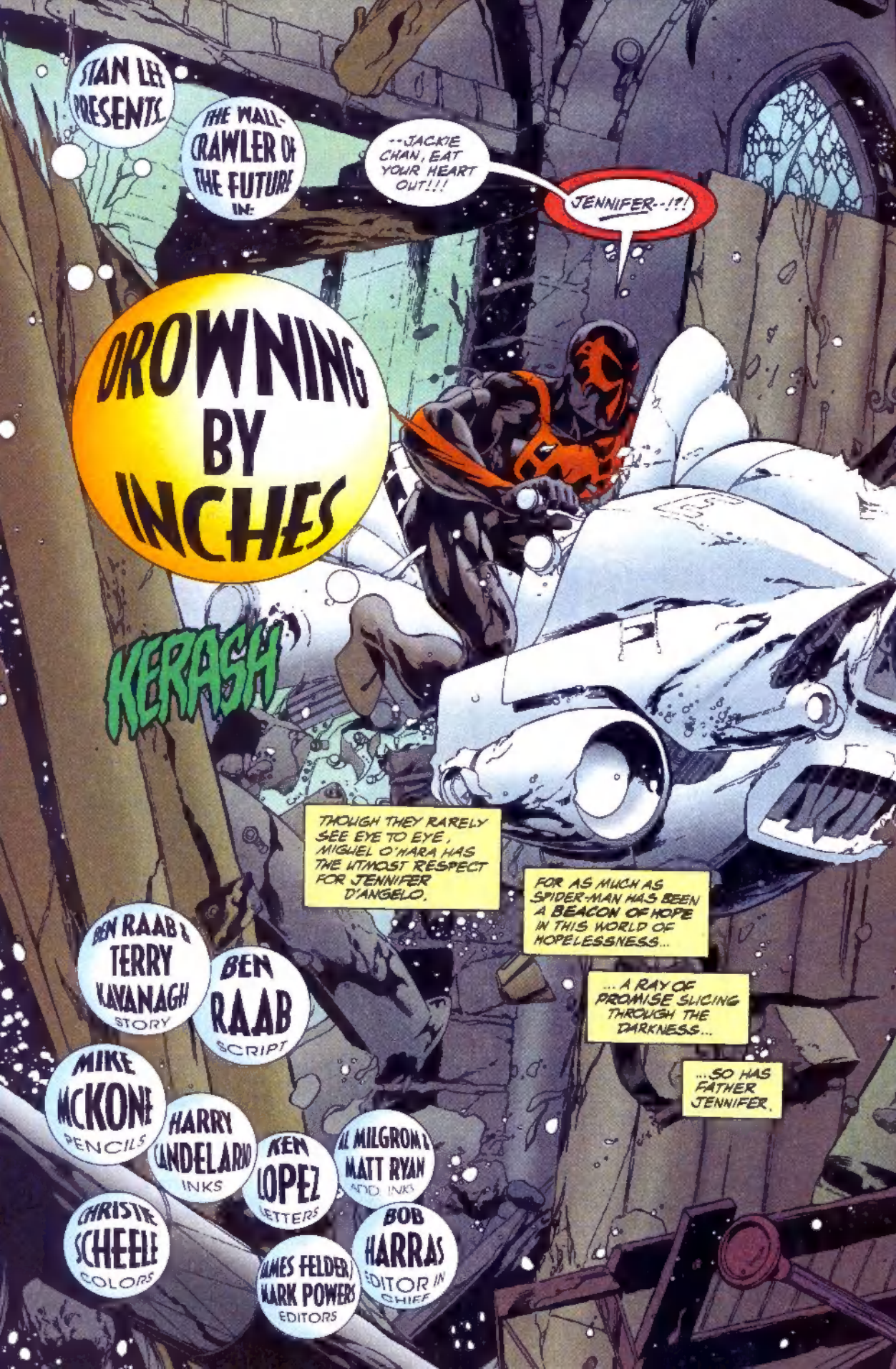
SPIDER-MAN 2099™ Vol. 1, No. 45, July, 1996. (ISSN #1067-5116) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Gerard Calabrese, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1996 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.95 per copy in the U.S. and $2.75 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $23.40 U.S., $35.40 foreign, and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPIDER-MAN 2099 (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SPIDER-MAN 2099, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP., SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1918, DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. PRINTED IN USA.

TRANSMITTING QUICK-TIME VISUAL...
OH, SHOCK...
I APPRECIATE THE SHOULDER, SPIDER-MAN--
--BUT THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE SURVIVED A GREAT MANY TRAGEDIES OVER THE YEARS.
REED, I--I'M SURE SUE AND BEN ARE OKAY. I MEAN, YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN THROUGH IT ALL TOGETHER, AND--
I HAVE FAITH THAT MY FAMILY WILL SURVIVE THIS ONE, TOO.
I HOPE...
BESIDES, A DESTROYED FANTASTICAR IS ONLY CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF THEIR CURRENT STATUS--
--AND I'M AFRAID WE MUST TURN OUR ATTENTION TO OTHER CONCERNS AT THIS JUNCTURE.
POOR GUY. HE'S TRYING NOT TO LET IT SHOW--
--BUT THE SUSPENSE OF NOT KNOWING WHETHER HIS WIFE, BROTHER-IN-LAW, AND BEST FRIEND ARE ALIVE OR DEAD--
--IS REALLY GNAWING AWAY AT HIM DEEP DOWN INSIDE.
GUESS I'D FEEL THE SAME WAY IF THAT WAS MY FAMILY...
HEY, SPEAKING OF "OTHER CONCERNS"-- I OUGHTA SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN DOWNTOWN.
COMPUTER-- TRANSMIT VISUAL OF ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL...
TRANSMITTING QUICK-TIME VISUAL...
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! THE CITY'S FLOODED AGAIN!?!
JENNIFER WAS PROBABLY INSIDE THE CATHEDRAL WHEN THE WAVES HIT. I'VE GOT TO GET DOWN THERE...
THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR EVERYBODY'S FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!
HEY! THAT HAS A NICE RING TO IT!
GOOD LUCK, SPIDEY, HMMN--
--SENSORS INDICATE A UNIFORM THERMO-DYNAMIC PATTERN MOVING ALONG THE COAST--
--DIRECTLY TOWARDS NUEVA YORK...

BENEATH THE GLITTERING SPIRES OF UPTOWN...
...AWAY FROM THE GARISH OPULENCE OF 21ST CENTURY "HIGH SOCIETY" LIES NUEVA YORK'S SEAMY UNDERBELLY...
...WHERE THE DIM ACETYLENE GLARE ILLUMINATES A LANDSCAPE CORRODED WITH GRIT, GRUNGE, GRIME...
...THE TEXTURES OF A CITY ON THE PERPETUAL VERGE OF IMPLOSION--
--DOWNTOWN.
AS IF PICKING UP THE PIECES AFTER ROMAN'S INVASION WASN'T TOUGH ENOUGH--
X SEE SPIDER-MAN 2099 #43 & #44-- JAMES & MARK.
--BUT A FLOOD OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS?
KNEW I SHOULD'VE PAID MORE ATTENTION IN CATECHISM CLASS...
SPLASH

HOLY SHOCK...!
SOME OF THESE PEOPLE ARE ALCHEMAX EMPLOYEES--
--I MEAN, THEY WERE ALCHEMAX EMPLOYEES...
FLOATING UP THERE--THAT'S JIMBO BARTON FROM SANITATION.
BUT HE LIVES ON THE WEST SIDE OF DOWNTOWN...
...EITHER HE CAME TO FATHER JENNIFER'S CHURCH TO MAKE PEACE WITH HIS GODS--
--OR HE WAS DRAGGED ALL THE WAY CROSS-TOWN BY THE UNDERTOW--
--LIKE SO MUCH HUMAN FLOTSAM.
MUST'VE DROWNED INSTANTLY.
THEY ALL DID. FROM THE LOOKS OF IT...

KNOWING FATHER JENNIFER'S UNSWERVING DEVOTION TO THE DOWNTRODDEN MASSES--
--SHE'S PROBABLY INSIDE SERVING SOUP AND BREAD RIGHT NOW.
I ONLY HOPE SHE HAD THE GOOD SENSE TO LEAVE BEFORE THE TIDES HIT.
EVEN WITH MY ENHANCED RESPIRATORY SYSTEM, I CAN ONLY STAY UNDERWATER FOR LIMITED PERIODS OF TIME...
MAN, GABRI'S GONNA GO BALLISTIC IF SHE'S DEAD.
HECK, IF DANA WAS STILL ALIVE--
--JENNY AND I WOULD BE BROTHER AND SISTER-IN-LAW--
--AND I'D PROBABLY MISS HER, TOO...
UHHHHNFF!!!
SHOCKIN' DOORS WON'T BUDGE-- THE CATHEDRAL MUST BE FLOODED!
HOW-EVER...
THIS PUBLIC EYE MAGLEV CYCLE MAY JUST BE MY TICKET INSIDE!
IF IT ISN'T TOO WATER-LOGGED, THAT IS--YES!!!
GOOD THING I TOOK THE TIME TO MODIFY THESE SLEDS FOR EXTREME-CONDITIONS USE.
NOW IF I CAN JUST REV UP ENOUGH VELOCITY--

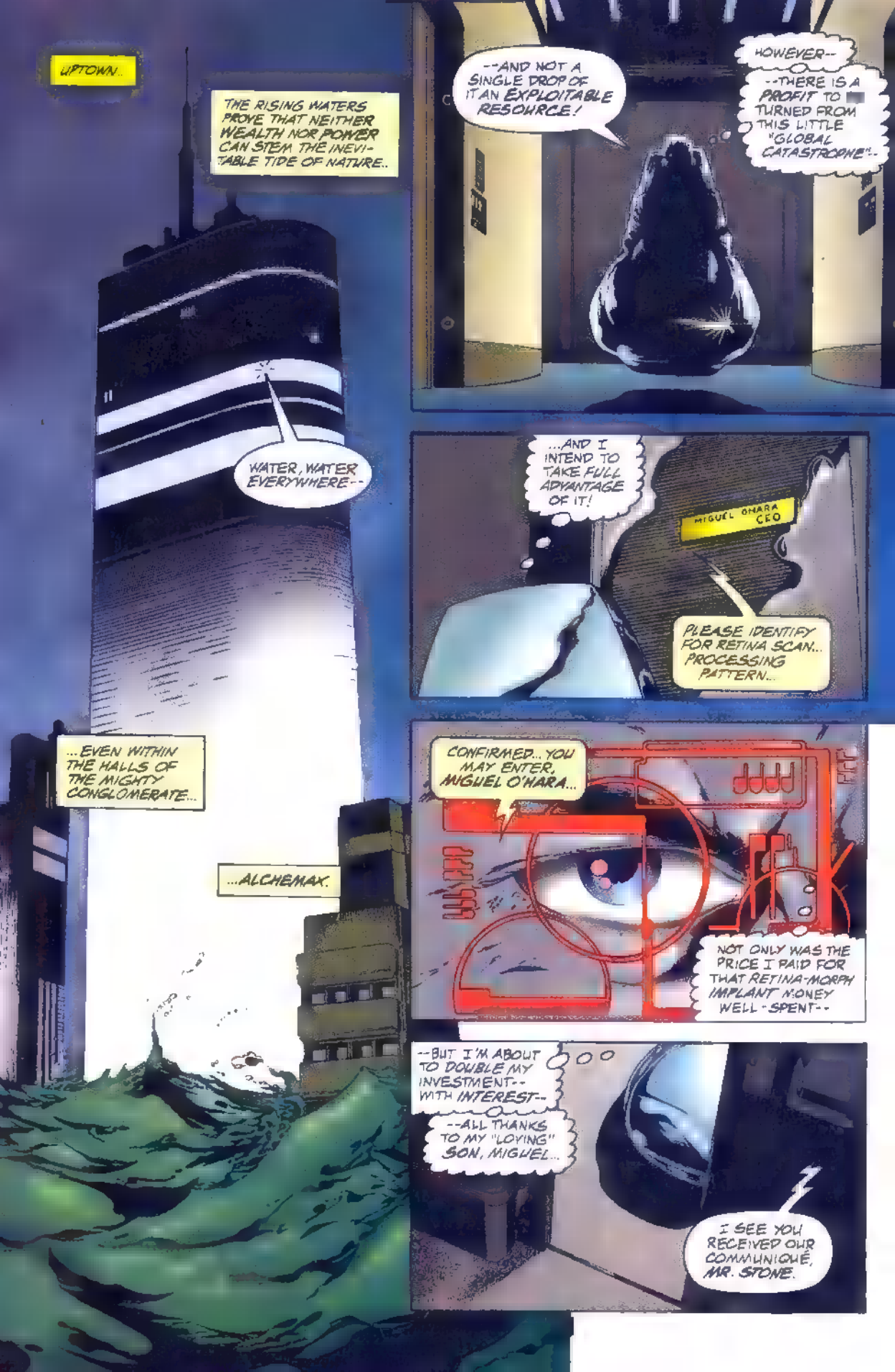

STAN LEE PRESENTS...
THE WALL-CRAWLER OF THE FUTURE IN:
--JACKIE CHAN, EAT YOUR HEART OUT!!!
JENNIFER--!?!
DROWNING BY INCHES
KERASH
THOUGH THEY RARELY SEE EYE TO EYE, MIGUEL O'HARA HAS THE UTMOST RESPECT FOR JENNIFER D'ANGELO.
FOR AS MUCH AS SPIDER-MAN HAS BEEN A BEACON OF HOPE IN THIS WORLD OF HOPELESSNESS...
...A RAY OF PROMISE SLICING THROUGH THE DARKNESS...
...SO HAS FATHER JENNIFER.
BEN RAAB & TERRY KAVANAGH STORY
BEN RAAB SCRIPT
MIKE MCKONE PENCILS
HARRY CANDELARIO INKS
KEN LOPEZ LETTERS
AL MILGROM & MATT RYAN AND INKS
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
JAMES FELDER/ MARK POWERS EDITORS
BOB HARRAS EDITOR IN CHIEF

AND AS HE CATCHES SIGHT OF HER -- SUSPENDED LIFELESS AMONG THE WRECKAGE OF THE MURKY TABERNACLE...
...MIGUEL DOES SOMETHING HE HASN'T DONE IN YEARS...
...HE PRAYS.
HER CHEST ISN'T MOVING -- NO VISIBLE SIGN OF RESPIRATION --
--I'M TOO LATE!
THAT'S RIGHT, WEBHEAD --
--SHE'S DEAD!
ZARK
ARRGGH!!!
THAT ENERGY BLAST! NOT HIM -- NOT NOW...

"...NOT THE GOBLIN!"*
SOME HERO YOU TURNED OUT TO BE!
YOU COULD'VE STOPPED THE TIDES--
--COULD'VE PREVENTED THIS CATASTROPHE--
--BUT YOU DIDN'T! YOU LET THIS HAPPEN!
ALL THIS BLOOD AND DEATH IS ON YOUR HANDS, MR. OH-SO-AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!
* LAST SEEN IN SPIDER-MAN 2099 #41.--MARK
RUNNING OUT OF OXYGEN...
GOTTA GET TO THE SURFACE--FAST!
AND ONCE I'M FINISHED WITH YOU--
--YOU'LL BE DEAD, TOO!
WHOULF!

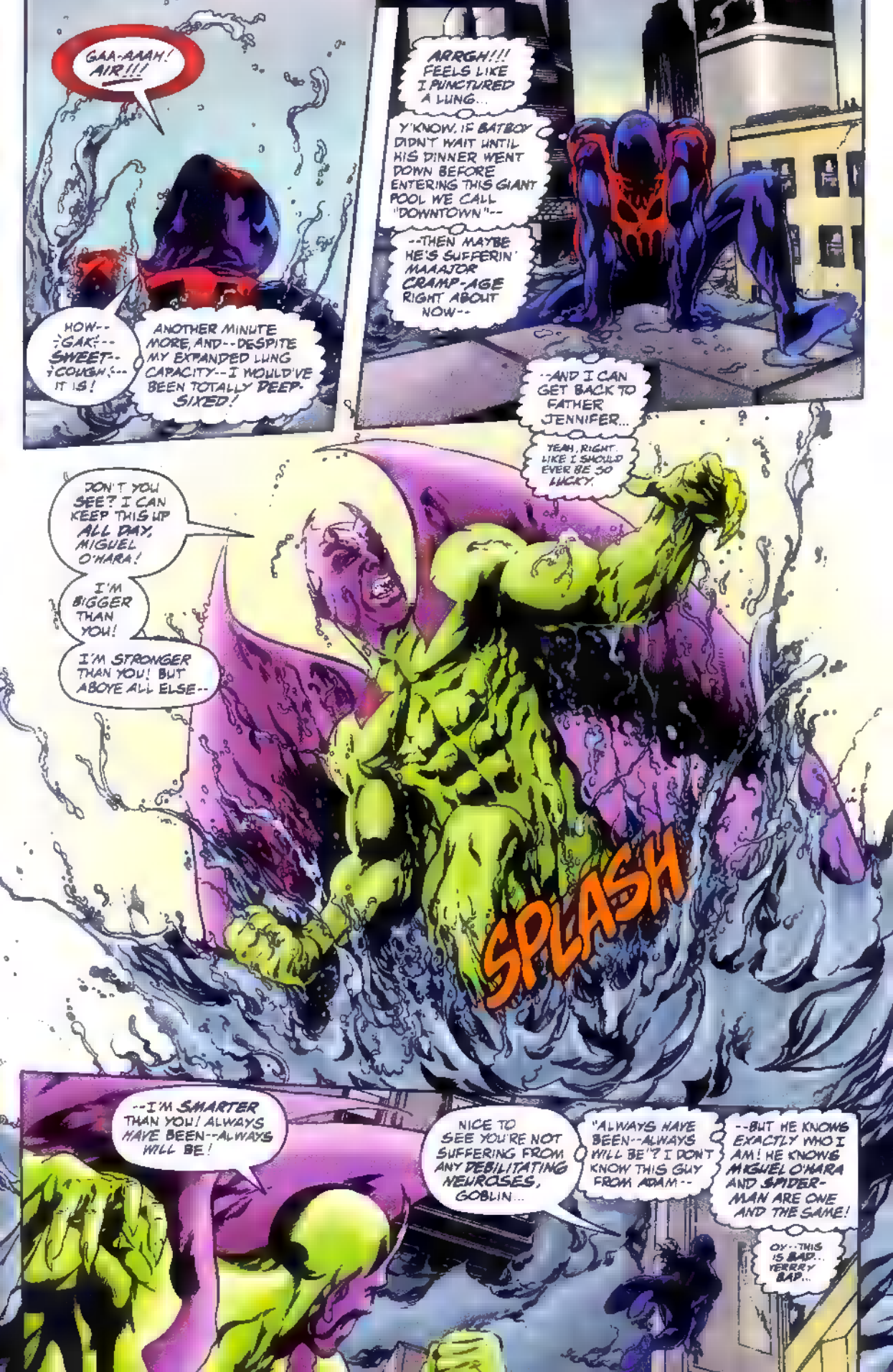
AS THE FORCE OF THE GOBLIN'S CHARGE CARRIES THE TWO MEN OUT OF THE CATHEDRAL...
...AND THEIR STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL RAGES ON ACROSS DOWNTOWN'S SATURATED STREETS...
...AWAY FROM FATHER JENNIFER...
DEATH BECKONS HER--
...AN UNEXPECTED THIRD PARTY STAKES HIS CLAIM TO THE DYING PRIEST.
--YET THE GIRL RESISTS ITS FRIGID EMBRACE.
EX-CELLENT!
SHE WILL MAKE A FINE ADDITION TO MY COLLECTION OF CARRION--
--AND A SUCCULENT DESSERT FOR MY VICTORY FEAST...

BORNE ALOFT ON HER CAPTOR'S [redacted] WINGS...
KRASH
...JENNIFER IS AIRLIFTED ABOVE THE SEETHING WAVES BELOW...
...AWAY FROM THE FILTHY MIASMA SUBMERGED BENEATH THEM...
...TOWARDS A FAT[redacted] FAR MORE GRUESOME THAN THE ONE SHE HAS JUST ESCAPED.
THE WAY I SEE IT, THERE ARE THREE THINGS PREVENTING ME FROM TAKING OVER DOWNTOWN:
YOU-- HOW THAT WAS POSSIBLE, I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO FATHOM...
SPIDER-MAN-- WHICH IS, OF COURSE, PATENTLY OBVIOUS...
AND THEN THERE'S ALCHEMAX...
NOW, I ALREADY HAVE YOU-- SO THAT'S ONE DOWN.
THE GOBLIN IS ABOUT TO DROWN THE S-MAN-- SO, THAT'S TWO.
CAN YOU SEE WHERE I'M GOING WITH THIS...?


UPTOWN..
THE RISING WATERS PROVE THAT NEITHER WEALTH NOR POWER CAN STEM THE INEVITABLE TIDE OF NATURE..
WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE--
...EVEN WITHIN THE HALLS OF THE MIGHTY CONGLOMERATE..
...ALCHEMAX.
--AND NOT A SINGLE DROP OF IT AN EXPLOITABLE RESOURCE!
HOWEVER--
--THERE IS A PROFIT TO [redacted] TURNED FROM THIS LITTLE "GLOBAL CATASTROONE"..
...AND I INTEND TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF IT!
MIGUEL O'HARA CEO
PLEASE IDENTIFY FOR RETINA SCAN... PROCESSING PATTERN...
CONFIRMED.. YOU MAY ENTER, MIGUEL O'HARA...
NOT ONLY WAS THE PRICE I PAID FOR THAT RETINA-MORPH IMPLANT MONEY WELL-SPENT--
--BUT I'M ABOUT TO DOUBLE MY INVESTMENT-- WITH INTEREST--
--ALL THANKS TO MY "LOYING" SON, MIGUEL...
I SEE YOU RECEIVED OUR COMMUNIQUÉ, MR. STONE.

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH TO SEND IT, CAPTAIN PIKE.
THERE HAVE BEEN SOME COMPLICATIONS HERE ON MARS, [redacted]. WE WOULD HAVE REPORTED IN EARLIER--
--BUT WE DIDN'T WANT TO RUN THE RISK OF MAKING OUR PRESENCE KNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC--
COMPLICATIONS? WHAT KINDS OF COMPLICATIONS?
WE'RE NOT EXACTLY SURE, BUT THE COLONIAL POPULATION HAS DROPPED--
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "DROPPED"?
DISAPPEARANCES, SIR. UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES...
THEN THERE'S MORE ROOM FOR ME, BESIDES--
--IF THE POLAR ICE CAPS CONTINUE MELTING AT THEIR CURRENT RATE--
--THIS PLANET WILL BE A GIANT PUDDLE BY WEEK'S END.
WHEN IS THE NEXT INTERPLANETARY TRANSPORT SCHEDULED TO DISEMBARK?
TOMORROW MORNING. 0900 HOURS.
YOU AND MR. O'HARA BETTER HURRY IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT...
DON'T YOU WORRY, CAPTAIN. I'LL BE THERE...

DOWNTOWN...
LUNGS... GONNA BURST. CAN'T TAKE... MORE... PUNISHMENT...
MUMMPHR!
THWP
ACTUALLY--
C'MON, O'HARA-- IGNORE THE PAIN AND JUST SWIM, MAN--
--SWIM!
--PLANNED ON... DOGGIE PADDLING... AWAY FROM THIS ONE...
FINALLY-- I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D LET GO!
GRRMBLMPH!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE, SPIDER-MAN--
--I KNOW YOU ALMOST AS WELL AS YOU KNOW YOURSELF--
THIS IS THE ONE FIGHT YOU WON'T BE WALKING AWAY FROM, WALL-CRAWLER.
--AND I WILL HUNT YOU DOWN!


GAA-AAAH! AIR!!!
HOW--GAK!--SWEET--COUGH!--IT IS!
ANOTHER MINUTE MORE, AND--DESPITE MY EXPANDED LUNG CAPACITY--I WOULD'VE BEEN TOTALLY DEEP-SIXED!
ARRGH!!! FEELS LIKE I PUNCTURED A LUNG...
Y'KNOW, IF BATBOY DIDN'T WAIT UNTIL HIS DINNER WENT DOWN BEFORE ENTERING THIS GIANT POOL WE CALL "DOWNTOWN"--
--THEN MAYBE HE'S SUFFERIN' MAAAJOR CRAMP-AGE RIGHT ABOUT NOW--
--AND I CAN GET BACK TO FATHER JENNIFER...
YEAH, RIGHT. LIKE I SHOULD EVER BE SO LUCKY.
DON'T YOU SEE? I CAN KEEP THIS UP ALL DAY, MIGUEL O'HARA!
I'M BIGGER THAN YOU!
I'M STRONGER THAN YOU! BUT ABOVE ALL ELSE--
SPLASH
--I'M SMARTER THAN YOU! ALWAYS HAVE BEEN--ALWAYS WILL BE!
NICE TO SEE YOU'RE NOT SUFFERING FROM ANY DEBILITATING NEUROSES, GOBLIN...
"ALWAYS HAVE BEEN--ALWAYS WILL BE"? I DON'T KNOW THIS GUY FROM ADAM--
--BUT HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHO I AM! HE KNOWS MIGUEL O'HARA AND SPIDER-MAN ARE ONE AND THE SAME!
OY--THIS IS BAD... YERRY BAD...

I KNOW WHAT PHANTOMS HAUNT YOUR DREAMS--WHAT SECRETS ARE BURIED IN THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF [redacted] CONSCIENCE!
ALL IT TAKES FOR ME TO EXPOSE YOU FOR THE JUDAS YOU ARE--FOR EVERYONE IN NUEVA YORK TO SEE--
--IS THIS!!!
ZAAK
ONE SHOT FROM GOBLIN'S BLASTS, AND I'LL SYSTEMS-CRASH LIKE A CYBERJOCK ON A BAD VR-TRIP!
I'D BETTER SEE HOW MUCH DISTANCE I CAN PUT BETWEEN US--JUST TO BE SAFE.
THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH--"NO ESCAPE..." YADDA YADDA YADDA.
HEY--DON'T CHA THINK IT'D BE A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE AT LEAST TWO MENACING QUIPS IN YOUR "THREATEN THE HERO" REPERTOIRE?
I MEAN, YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO SIC THE SUPER-VILLAIN TEAMSTERS ON YOU, NOW WOULD YOU?
CRACK WISE ALL YOU WANT, O'HARA--
--BUT THE "HEALING POWER OF LAUGHTER" AIN'T GONNA DO SHOCK FOR YOU IF YOU'RE DEAD!
THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY TO SHAKE THIS GUY. HE'S TOO CALM, TOO COLLECTED.
HE THINKS HE HAS THE ADVANTAGE JUST BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHO I AM UNDER THE MASK.
WELL, THEN I GUESS THE LOGICAL WAY TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD IS TO FIND OUT WHO HE IS AND TAKE THAT ADVANTAGE AWAY FROM HIM.
OH, THAT'LL BE A REEEAAL CAKEWALK...

YOUR TRICKS AREN'T GOING TO SAVE YOU, O'HARA-- I KNOW YOUR EVERY MOVE!
YOU WANT ME TO THINK YOU'VE LOST YOUR BALANCE AND FALLEN OFF THE ROOF--
--WHEN ALL YOU'VE REALLY DONE IS LEAP DOWN ONTO ANOTHER LEDGE!
WHOOUULF!
WHACK
WRONG-O, GOB-STER! THE "JUMP-UP-FROM-THE LEDGE-AND-KICK-GOBLIN'S-BUTT" MOVE WAS SOOOO 2098!
THIS YEAR, I'VE GOT A BRAND NEW SET OF MOVES GUARANTEED TO KNOCK YOU OFF YOUR FEET!
I CALL THIS ONE THE "STICK-TO-THE-BUILDING-AND-KICK-GOBLIN'S-BUTT" MOVE!
THERE IS A DISTINCTION, Y'KNOW.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE ACTUALLY FELL FOR THAT! TALK ABOUT COCKY!
UHHNNFFF!
CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY FELL FOR THAT! I'M GETTING WAAAY TOO COCKY!
GOTTA KEEP IT TOGETHER FOR A LITTLE LONGER-- I'VE ALMOST GOT HIM.
THUD
WELL, NOW-- LET'S JUST TAKE OFF THAT MASK OF YOURS AND SEE WHAT WE CAN SEE...
NO! HE CAN'T SEE ME LIKE THIS! NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE...!

KERAK
GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF ME!!!
OOOOF!
SHOCK! I WAS SO CLOSE!
NOW DO YOU SEE? NOT ONLY AM I YOUR EQUAL--
--BUT I'M BETTER THAN YOU, MICHEL O'HARA. BETTER THAN YOU--
--AND BETTER THAN SPIDER-MAN!
WHAT IS THE DEAL WITH THIS NUTCASE?
TALK ABOUT AN OVERDEVELOPED SENSE OF INSECURITY--
--HEL-LOOO... WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
A BROKEN MIRROR! HMMM...
MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE'S BAD LUCK CAN TURN OUT GOOD FOR YOURS TRULY!
WHY'S HE BEING SO COMPETITIVE WITH ME AND MY ALTER EGO?
SHAZAK
YOU'RE GOING DOWN FOR THE COUNT, SPIDEY. AND THIS TIME--
--YOU'RE NEVER GETTING UP!!!

IN-CORRECTA-MUNDO AGAIN, O GHOULISH ONE!
HAVING BEEN ON THE RECEIVING END OF GOBLIN'S POWERS BEFORE--*
--I KNOW HIS BLASTS CAUSE NOT ONLY INTENSE HALLUCINATORY EPISODES--SORT OF LIKE WHAT GABRI SHOWED ME THAT TIME WE WIRE-TRIPPED--**
--BUT ALSO AN ALMOST CRIPPLING SENSATION OF FEAR
SHA-ZING
* SPIDER-MAN 2099 #40 &
** SPIDER-MAN 2099 #19--
MACMARK S.I
NOOO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!?
HAVE TO...FIGHT MY OWN POWER! OTHERWISE...HE'LL DISCOVER...THE TRUTH!
JUST PERFORMING A LITTLE EXPERIMENT, GRUESOME. TAKE A GUESS WHO'S THE GUINEA PIG.
UNLIKE TRUE CYBER-SPACE, WHERE THE ILLUSIONS ARE ALL EXPERIENCED INTERNALLY--
--GOBLIN-INDUCED VISIONS MANIFEST THEMSELVES EXTERNALLY
MAYBE REDIRECTING THE BLAST BACK AT THE SOURCE WILL FORCE GOBLIN TO PLAY THE HAND HE'S HOLDING SUBCONSCIOUSLY--
--AND I CAN FINALLY GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS WHOLE "SECRET IDENTITY" FIASCO!
WELL, HERE GOES NOTHIN'...
ALL RIGHT, GOBLIN--WHO ARE YOU?!?
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?!?
BUT AS SPIDER-MAN'S QUESTIONS BECOME WHITE NOISE IN THE GOBLIN'S EARS...

THE TERRIBLE...
LOOK, HON--IT'S SPIDER-MAN!
WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE LIKE HIM?
I MEAN, LOOK AT HIS BUTT--IT IS SOOO TIGHT!
...IMAGES OF ONE MAN'S MISERY TAKE SHAPE...
...AND THE TRUTH IS LAID BARE ONCE AND FOR ALL.
IF I EVER SEVERED THAT BOND, I'D JUST DIE.
OH, LIKE I'D FORGIVE HIM AND NOT YOU...
...TRAGIC...
I'VE ALWAYS HAD A LOT OF...ANGER... BOTTLED UP WHEN IT CAME TO MIGUEL. BUT I'VE MANAGED TO "BLOW SOME OFF" RECENTLY.
AND NOW I HAVE A CERTAIN DEGREE TO MAKE UP TO HIM. HE NEEDS ME...
...TRUTH...
YOU ALWAYS WERE EVERYONES FAVORITE. I'M NOTHING...
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS. GABRIEL?! IS THAT YOU?!
I--I DON'T KNOW WH-WHAT TO SAY... DON'T KNOW WHAT TO D-DO...
HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH ALREADY!?

YOU'VE TAKEN AWAY EVERYTHING--EVERYONE--THAT WAS EVER SPECIAL TO ME!!!
FIRST, DANA LEFT ME FOR YOU.
THEN, MY RELATIONSHIP WITH KASEY BOTTOMED OUT BECAUSE SHE WAS TOTALLY INFATUATED WITH SPIDER-MAN--TOTALLY INFATUATED WITH YOU!
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, MAMA--THE ONE WOMAN WHOSE LOVE I THOUGHT WOULD BE MINE ALONE, FOREVER--
--OUT-OF-THE-BLUE FORGIVES YOU AND ALL BUT ABANDONS ME, HER ONLY REAL SON!
SO, IF YOU'RE ALL DESPERATE TO MAKE THINGS UP TO ME--
--THEN JUST GET THE SHOCK OUT OF MY LIFE!!!
YEAH? WELL, YOUR "KID BROTHER" HAS BEEN PLAYING IN YOUR SHADOW LONG ENOUGH, MIGGY--
--NOW I'M PLAYING WITH POWER! MY POWER!!!
WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY NEXT COUPLE HUNDRED QUESTIONS--WHY DO YOU EVEN HAVE THESE POWERS? WHO GAVE THEM TO YOU?
SORRY, MIGUEL--I'M NOT GONNA MAKE THINGS THAT EASY FOR YOU. GO ASK JENNY D'ANGELO ALL ABOUT IT--
--IF SHE'S STILL ALIVE, THAT IS!
OOOOH, SHOCK...
GABRI, WAIT! YOU CAN'T JUST UP AND DISAPPEAR WITH THINGS LIKE THIS BETWEEN US!
WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER TELL ME HOW YOU FELT? YOU'RE MY KID BROTHER!
SPLASH
I WAS SO UTTERLY FLOORED BY GABRI'S "CONFESSION"--
--THAT I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT FATHER JENNIFER!

WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I GONNA DO ABOUT GABRI?
WHAT IF THE TRANSFORMATION HE UNDERWENT HAS SOME NASTY SIDE EFFECTS?!
WHAT IF HIS BODY CAN'T HANDLE IT?!?
WHAT IF IT FAILS TO SYNTHESIZE THE CHEMICALS, OR THE RADIATION-- OR WHATEVER IT WAS-- THAT GAVE HIM ALL THOSE POWERS?!?!
CHILL, O'HARA-- GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF. YOU KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR BROTHER--
--EVEN IF HE REFUSES TO BELIEVE IT.
JUST TRY TO CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND...
HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT IF JENNIFER'S BEEN DOWN HERE FOR THIS LONG--
--IT'LL BE A MIRACLE IF SHE HASN'T DROWNED BY NOW!
NO TRACE OF HER AT THE ALTAR--
--MAYBE I'LL HAVE MORE LUCK NEAR THE PEWS...
HOPING AGAINST ALL HOPE THAT HE'LL FIND THE YOUNG WOMAN WHO SINGLE-HANDEDLY GAVE THE PEOPLE OF DOWNTOWN A REASON TO BELIEVE IN THEIR FUTURE...
...WHO GAVE HIM A REASON TO BELIEVE IN HIMSELF...
...SPIDER-MAN STRAINS WITH ALL HIS MIGHT TO CLEAR AWAY THE RUINS OF THIS SACRED CATHEDRAL. ONLY TO CHAFE AGAINST THE SAD REALIZATION...
..THAT IT MAY HAVE ALL BEEN FOR NAUGHT.
NOPE. NADA-- SHE'S GONE.
UHHNNH!
WOUNDED LUNG'S...REALLY STARTING TO... SMART.
DON'T THINK... I CAN... HOLD MY BREATH...
DON'T WANNA... GIVE UP BUT THERE'S... NO WAY... JENNIFER MADE IT... OUT ALIVE.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, FATHER-- I DID MY BEST.
MAN. I'M GONNA MISS HER...

BETTER CHALK THIS UP AS YET ANOTHER BANNER DAY IN THE LIFE OF MIGUEL O'HARA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE IDIOT...
AS PAINFUL AS IT MAY BE, I GUESS I OUGHTA LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THINGS.
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE TODAY COULD GET ANY WORSE NOW, COULD IT?
DEATH TO THE INFIDELS!
ATLANTIS SHALL RISE AGAIN!
ME AND MY BIG MOUTH...
NEXT MONTH:
AN ERA COMES TO AN END SO THAT A NEW ONE MAY BEGIN, WHEN STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS... THE FINAL ISSUE OF SPIDER-MAN 2099!